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SUBJECT: GOT ANNOUNCES CREATION OF HOTLINE TO REPORT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

¶11. On January 14, the Ministry of Social Affairs announced the creation of a hotline to report violence against children in Togo. Called "Allo 111," it is meant to allow greater ease in reporting violence against children in school and institutions, and even in families and communities. Children can also call the line to learn their rights. Calling the number is free, thanks to sponsorship by Togo Telecom, Togocel, and Moov, the major telecommunication companies. UNICEF and local NGOs assisted with the project, which is projected to last 3 years and will cost roughly \$210,000.

¶12. Comment. The Director for the Protection of Children at the Ministry of Social Affairs told PolOff that, because of a tip to the hotline, earlier this week two children were prevented from being trafficked across the border to Benin. If the ministry is able to publicize the number and people feel safe calling in, this could be an effective tool to fight trafficking and violence against children. End Comment.

HAWKINS